

Aug. 27, 2014

**TOURING SULLIVAN
COUNTY'S MUSEUM
... while dusting**

Sometimes in casual conversation, we are asked “Why haven’t you written about . . . ?” And quite frankly it’s simply because there is so much to write about from the museum’s archives and contents that this writer could never live long enough to touch on it all. Such was the case when earlier this summer, Donnie Panichi



and his fellow class mate, John Obert were together to attend their 1954 St. Basil’s class reunion later that week. Mr. Obert now resides in Olallah, Washington but grew up in Dushore. The Obert family genealogy and the Obert Hotel of Dushore, thus became part of this particular inquiry. Ancestor, Henry E. Obert, took charge of the hotel in March of 1894. At the time it was stated that he had “practically rebuilt the whole structure, turning the old-fashioned house into a modern hotel that is first-class in every particular. On the interior it is finished in hard wood and presents a pleasing appearance. The office is large and well furnished, the bar occupies a handsome room and is stocked with the choicest of liquors; the dining-room is large, well lighted, cheerful and fitted for the accommodation of the many guest of the house . . . heated throughout by steam in the winter.” Born in Colley Township on April 10, 1863, Henry was the son of Mathias, a retired farmer of Mildred who had hailed from Baden Germany. Mathias, born in 1818, was the son of Frederick, a weaver, and Rosa (Dutter) Obert.

Henry E. Obert had, in Feb. of 1894, married Clara Saxe of Wilmot Township, Bradford County. Prior to operating the Obert Hotel, Henry worked on the family farm until 20 years of age. He then graduated from Pierce’s Business College in Philadelphia, and afterwards engaged in the lumber business becoming quite successful in both Colley and Cherry Townships. All this before becoming the proprietor of the Obert Hotel, which later became known as the Sweeney Hotel and is today called the Dushore Hotel. Following the hotel, Henry began the feed business known as the Dushore Roller Mills for 30 years and then conducted after 1938 by his son Henry L. This Henry, Henry L., was born in March of 1900. He operated the mill for many years, using water from the Mill Pond (which being located near Headley Ave. was originally referred to as Headley Pond having been purchased from John Dieffenbach who’d built a feed mill there.) that in 1900’s postcard photos is referred to as Obert’s Pond. Henry L. is the father of John Obert, who has prompted us to do this bit of research.

So, as you can see from this article, it isn’t always the information you have or the artifacts you may have to contribute to the museum but also a simple question that instigates curiosity. And the next time you’re in Dushore, you may want to go in and see the Obert/Dushore Hotel and while you’re at it have a delicious meal of home-made foods that continue on Henry E. Obert’s tradition of “special attention to the service at his table, which in its way is unexcelled”.

The Obert Hotel on Main Street, Dushore, taken 1909